

**What is claimed is:**

1. A system to delay answering a call made to a cellular phone, said system comprising:  
means to record a message to be provided to a caller making calls to said cellular phone;  
5 and  
means to instruct said message to be played to said caller;  
wherein said caller is connected, said message is played and after said message is played  
said caller remains connected.
- 10 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said system is a distributed system.
3. A system according to claim 2, wherein said means to instruct is selected from the group  
consisting of a button on said cellular phone, a keypad entry to said cellular phone, an entry on a  
calendar, an entry on a clock, an entry into a location device, and combinations thereof.
- 15 4. A system according to claim 2, wherein said means to record is contained in said cellular  
phone.
5. A system according to claim 1, wherein in said system is a centralized system.
- 20 6. A system according to claim 5, wherein said means to instruct is selected from the group  
consisting of a button on said cellular phone, a keypad entry to said cellular phone, an entry on a  
calendar, an entry on a clock, an entry into a location device, a telephone order, an electronic  
message, a web page interface, interaction with a service representative, and combinations  
25 thereof.
7. A system according to claim 5, wherein said means to record is located in a device  
peripheral to said cellular phone.

8. A system according to claim 7, wherein said system is an in-band signaling system and the call is established as a three way bridge between said caller, said cellular phone and said peripheral device.

5 9. A system according to claim 8, wherein said cellular phone user can interrupt said message at any time and stay connected to said caller and said peripheral device will be disconnected.

10 10. A system according to claim 7, wherein said system is an out-of-band signaling system and the call is established a connection between said caller and said peripheral device.

11. A system according to claim 10, wherein said cellular phone user can interrupt said message at any time and be connected to said caller and said peripheral device will be disconnected.

15 12. A system according to claim 1, wherein said cellular phone user can interrupt said message at any time and be connected to said caller.

20 13. A system according to claim 1, wherein means to record includes storage for a plurality of messages.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein said system further includes means to play different messages in response to predetermined preferences.

25 15. A method of delaying answering a call made to a cellular phone, said method comprising the steps of:

recording a message to be provided to a caller making calls to said cellular phone; and  
instructing said message to be played to said caller;  
connecting said caller;

playing said message to said caller;

maintaining the connection with said caller after said message has been played.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein said method is carried out on a distributed  
5 system.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said step of instructing is selected from the  
group consisting of pushing a button on said cellular phone, entering a command using a keypad  
of said cellular phone, receiving a command from a calendar, receiving a command from a  
10 clock, receiving a command from a location device, and combinations thereof.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein said step of recording comprises making said  
recording into means contained in said cellular phone.

15 19. A method according to claim 15, wherein said method is carried out on a centralized  
system.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein said step of instructing is selected from the  
group consisting of pushing a button on said cellular phone, entering a command using a keypad  
20 of said cellular phone, receiving a command from a calendar, receiving a command from a  
clock, receiving a command from a location device, placing a telephone order, sending an  
electronic message, interfacing with a web page, interacting with a service representative, and  
combinations thereof.

25 21. A method according to claim 19, wherein said step of recording comprises making said  
recording into a device peripheral to said cellular phone.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein said step of connecting comprises establishing  
a three way bridge between said caller, said cellular phone and said peripheral device.

23. A method according to claim 22, further including the steps of:  
interrupting said message at any time;  
maintaining the connection between said caller and said cellular phone; and  
5 disconnecting said peripheral device.

24. A method according to claim 21, wherein said step of connecting comprises establishing  
a connection between said caller and said peripheral device.

10 25. A method according to claim 24, further including the steps of:  
interrupting said message at any time;  
connecting said caller to said cellular phone; and  
disconnecting said peripheral device.

15 26. A method according to claim 15, further including the steps of:  
interrupting said message at any time; and  
connecting said caller to said cellular phone.

20 27. A method according to claim 15, wherein said step of recording comprises recording a  
plurality of messages.

28. A method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of:  
playing different messages in response to predetermined preferences.